

Are U aware?

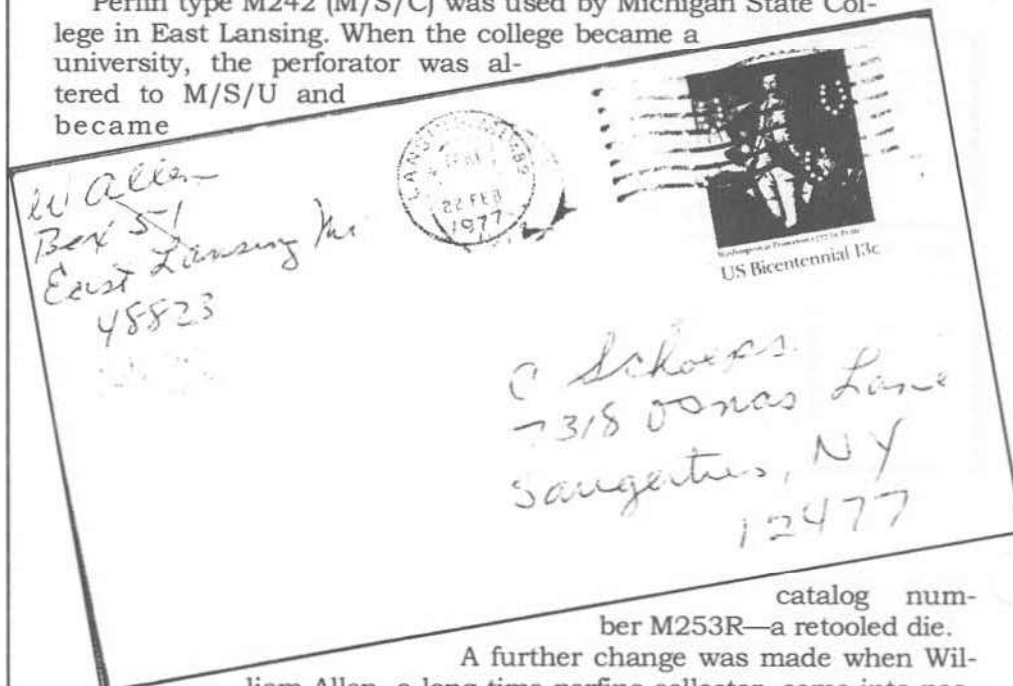
## MSC to MSU to just plain U!

By Robert J. Schwerdt (#505L)

I am unaware of any *Bulletin* articles regarding a special U.S. perfin that is unlisted in the U.S. catalog. If there are any articles, they would have been written more than 20 years ago.

Would that two deceased members of the Club could talk. They could tell this story far better than I. Here are the few facts I have.

Perfin type M242 (M/S/C) was used by Michigan State College in East Lansing. When the college became a university, the perforator was altered to M/S/U and became



catalog number M253R—a retooled die.

A further change was made when William Allen, a long time perfins collector, came into possession of the perforator. He, or someone else, removed the M and S pins and then perforated current stamps (Scott #1704 is on the cover shown here) to use on letters to his correspondents.

How many stamps were perforated or how many letters were sent I have no idea. But the one shown here was sent to Charles Schoeps and has a notation on the reverse "the U from the MSU perforator."

I never knew Bill Allen but Charles Schoeps and I became good friends during the few years that we were acquainted, hence my possession of the cover.

If you happen to find a stamp or a cover with the unlisted U perfin (probably there will be multiple Us on the stamp), you will know that is the second generation of a retooled die and probably had limited private usage.